

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 22, 1999

Prepared on September 23, 1999

ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board

Brief discussion of some items of interest to the Board follow. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any particular item.

**REGULATION SUMMARY OF
AUGUST 1999**

[Corinne Huckaby 805/549-3504
and Maura Mahon 805/542-4642]

Orders

Reports of Waste Discharge Received	7
Requirements Pending	45
Inspections Made	19
Self-Monitoring Reports Reviewed	154
Stormwater Reports Reviewed	121

Enforcement

Non-Compliance Letters Sent:	
NPDES Program	0
Non-Chapter 15 WDR Program	8
Chapter 15 Program	0
CAOs Issued	0
ACL Complaints (Vintage Petroleum)	1

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

[Corinne Huckaby 805/549-3504]

Conditional Certification is recommended to the State Board Executive Director when a project may adversely impact surface water quality. Conditions allow the project to proceed under an Army Corps permit, while upholding water quality standards.

Staff recommends "Waiver of Certification" when the applicant proposes adequate mitigation. Measures included in the application must assure that beneficial uses will be protected, and water quality standards will be met.

Staff will recommend "No action" when no discharge or adverse impacts are expected. Generally, a project must provide beneficial use and habitat enhancement for no action to be taken by the Regional Board.

A chart on the following page lists applications received through September 24, 1999.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM AUGUST 7 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 24, 1999

Date Received	Applicant	Project Description	Project Location	Receiving Water	Action Taken
August 9, 1999	Santa Barbara County Parks	Storm Damage Repair to Zanja De Cota Creek, Santa Ynez Park	Santa Ynez	Zanja De Cota Creek	Pending
August 10, 1999	Caltrans	Culvert Replacement Along Route 101	Prunedale	Tributary to Prunedale Creek	Pending
August 10, 1999	Del Dingus	Reconstruct storm water damaged right of way Crossing	Cayucos	Old Creek	Inc. Application
August 11, 1999	Moss Landing Harbor District	Maintenance Dredging	Moss Landing	Monterey Bay	Covered under Existing WDRs
August 12, 1999	Caltrans	Waddell Bluffs Rockfall maintenance activities	Near Santa Cruz County line	Waddell Creek	Pending
August 13, 1999	City of Monterey	Del Monte Lake Outfall Replacement Project	Monterey	Del Monte Lake/Pacific Ocean	Waiver
August 20, 1999	Moss Landing Harbor District	Skipper's restaurant	Moss Landing	Moss Landing Harbor	Waiver
August 25, 1999	Franko, Walt	Subdivision, Paso Robles	Paso Robles	wetlands	Pending
August 26, 1999	Santa Barbara County Parks	Storm Damage Repair to Manning Oak Annex Footbridge	Santa Barbara	Oak Creek	Waiver
September 2, 1999	Williams Co., Inc.	Fiber Optic Cable Installation Project - SLO - Bakersfield	Regionwide	Various	Pending
September 2, 1999	Kendall Jackson	Replace to bridges	Santa Barbara	San Antonio Creek	Waiver
September 3, 1999	Garcia & Assoc.	Santa Ynez River Bike Path	Santa Barbara County	Santa Ynez River	Waiver
September 7, 1999	Tosco Corp.	Pipeline Repair Project (HWY 101)	Grover Beach	Meadow Creek	Pending
September 8, 1999	Monterey County PWD	Bridge Seismic Retrofit for Elkhorn Rd Bridge over Union Pacific Railroad	Monterey	Wetland	Pending
September 9, 1999	Weyrich Development Co.	Jack Ranch Farm Access Road	San Luis Obispo	Davenport	Pending
September 9, 1999	San Luis Obispo County	Airport Runway Extension	San Luis Obispo	Wetlands	Pending
September 14, 1999	South County housing	Los Arroyos Project	Gilroy	South Morey Channel	Pending
September 14, 1999	Caltrans	Repair and stabilize banks	Shandon	Cholame Creek	Pending
September 17, 1999	Chevron USA and Aera Energy	Onshore Flowline Removal Project	Gaviota	Alcatraz and Cementario Creeks	Pending
September 17, 1999	San Luis Obispo County Engineering	Salinas Dam Pipeline	San Luis Obispo	Tributary to Stenner Creek	Pending
September 21, 1999	Atascadero, City of	Storm Drain Outlet to Graves Creek	Atascadero	Graves Creek/Salinas	Pending
September 22, 1999	Cabrillo College	Borregas Creek erosion control project	Santa Cruz	Borregas Creek	Pending

LOW THREAT DISCHARGES

This section is for dischargers who have requested approval to discharge water that poses insignificant threat to water quality or for sites recommended for case closure (low risk sites where no further regulatory action is required). Consequently, we conditionally approved of these proposals. Conditions common to each approval are:

1. If you, the Regional Board, object to the proposal, an NPDES permit or waste discharge requirements will be prepared for the Board's consideration.
2. The discharger remains liable for any treatment system failure that results in significant discharge of pollutants.
3. We have a "low threat discharges" general permit for surface water discharges available, and the discharger may be required to file for coverage by that permit.

Site descriptions and specific conditions are listed below for each case.

Discharge of Treated Ground Water Pursuant to Order No. 96-4 (NPDES No. CAG993001), Waste Discharge Requirements General Permit for Discharges With Low Threat to Water Quality.

Chevron Service Station, 351 Fremont Street, Monterey County [Wei Liu 805/542-4648]

Chevron Products Company (Chevron) intends to clean up gasoline contaminants in soil and ground water at its service station located at 351 Fremont Street, Monterey. Site contamination resulted from leaky underground fuel storage tanks located on-site. Chevron proposes to discharge at an instantaneous flow rate of up to 4,320 gallons per day of treated ground water to a storm drain and thence to Monterey Bay. To ensure the discharge reliably meets Basin Plan water quality objectives at all times, two activated carbon treatment units will be used to treat the contaminated ground water. Prior to being discharged into the storm drain, treated water will be stored in a holding tank until receiving satisfactory test results. Staff reviewed specifications submitted to justify the low threat to water quality discharge permit and

concluded the treatment system is adequate. Board staff provided Chevron with a draft low-threat-to-water-quality discharge permit and site-specific Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 99-77. A notice for the upcoming wastewater discharge was sent to all property owners within 300 feet of the site according to a mailing list provided by Chevron. No substantive comment was received from the public. Therefore, staff has authorized discharge of treated ground water to Monterey Bay under General Permit Order No. 96-4.

Former BP Service Station, 401 Fremont St., Monterey County [Wei Liu 805/542-4648]

BP Exploration and Oil Inc (BP) intends to clean up gasoline contaminants in soil and ground water at its former service station located at 401 Fremont Street, Monterey. Site contamination resulted from leaky underground fuel storage tanks located on-site. The discharge will be at a maximum flow rate of less than 4,320 gallons per day of treated ground water to a storm drain and thence to Monterey Bay. To ensure the discharge reliably meets Basin Plan water quality objectives at all times, contaminated ground water will be passed through, and hence treated with three activated carbon treatment units constructed in series. Treated water will be monitored for petroleum hydrocarbon contaminants. Discharge into the storm drain will not occur if test results are not satisfactory. Staff reviewed specifications submitted to justify the low threat to water quality discharge permit and concluded the treatment system is adequate. Board staff provided BP with a draft low-threat-to-water-quality discharge permit and site-specific Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 99-103. A notice for the upcoming wastewater discharge was sent to all property owners within 300 feet of the site according to a mailing list provided by BP for their comments, if any. If there are no substantive comments by the Board or the public, staff will authorize discharge of treated ground water to Monterey Bay under General Permit Order No. 96-4.

Santa Cruz Industries, 401 Swift St., Santa Cruz County [Bob Hurford 805/542-4776]

Santa Cruz Industries (SCI) requested coverage under the General Low Threat to Water Quality Permit (Order No. 96-4) for discharging treated ground water to a nearby storm sewer. The storm sewer discharges to the Pacific Ocean. SCI conducted metal plating operations which involved the use of organic solvents in plating, etching, painting and tank cleaning. The organic solvents used were primarily trichloroethane (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE).

Dual-phase vacuum extraction is the selected technology for cleanup at the subject site. Dual-phase vacuum extraction removes contaminated soil vapor and ground water simultaneously. Ground water extraction lowers the water table, thus creating more favorable conditions for vapor extraction, while hydraulically controlling migration of the plume of ground water contamination. Vapor phase contaminants (the volatile organic compounds found in cleaning solvents) will be captured with granular activated carbon (GAC) treatment canisters.

Extracted ground water will be treated with three 180-pound GAC canisters in series. Treated water will be discharged to the storm sewer. Samples will be collected before, between, and after the carbon canisters after the first week of operation and monthly thereafter. The initial flow rate is estimated to be approximately five gallons per minute and will likely decline to approximately one gallon per minute after the first month. The discharged ground water will be cleaned up to drinking water standards, therefore no detectable levels of volatile organic compounds will be discharged to surface waters at any time. Sampling results will be submitted to the Regional Board. A notification allowing for comment regarding this discharge was sent on September 27, 1999 to 48 interested parties living or owning property within 300 feet of the discharge location. The notification refers to discharge beginning October 25, 1999.

CASE CLOSURES FOR ABOVE AND UNDERGROUND TANKS (UGT), AND

SPILLS, LEAKS, INVESTIGATIONS AND CLEANUPS (SLIC)

This section is formatted to easily identify sites where staff is recommending case closure concurrence from the Board. Case closures generally fall into two categories - cases where cleanup goals have been met and cases where cleanup goals have not been met. In the first case, staff generally sends the responsible party a letter stating the case is now closed since cleanup objectives have been met and no further action is needed. Unless the Board objects, staff will continue to send closure letters and simply report these cases by way of the Executive Officer's report.

The second situation occurs where cleanup objectives are not yet met, but for various reasons, staff is recommending closure. These cases will be reported to the Board in more detail. For example, staff has discovered that some sites have a plume of contamination confined to a defined area. Ground water monitoring may show the plume is decreasing both in concentration and size, and does not threaten probable beneficial uses. Other specific circumstances may exist such as the plume may be confined to a shallow portion of the aquifer with no actual or expected uses of the groundwater. The reasons for staff recommending closure will be explained with each case.

We are presenting these closures in a manner similar to the way we present waivers of waste discharge requirements. That is, the case will be discussed and if the Board does not object to a case or wishes more information, the issue may be discussed at the Board meeting where we can provide clarification or the Board may reject our recommendation for closure.

Abbreviations commonly used for these cases:

TPH - Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons

TPHd - TPH measured in the carbon range of diesel

TPHg - TPH measured in the carbon range of gasoline

BTEX - Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, Xylene (components of gasoline)

MTBE - Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (gasoline oxygenate additive)

Item No. 5
Executive Officer's Report

5-

October 22, 1999

DCA or 1,2, DCA - dichloroethane (gasoline additive)

DCE - dichloroethylene (gasoline additive)

PCE -tetrachloroethylene or perchloroethylene (perc - a solvent)

TCE - trichloroethylene (a solvent)

TCA - trichloroethane (a solvent)

Under Ground Tank Staff Closed Cases

Chevron #9-2060, 825 East Dunne Avenue, Morgan Hill, Santa Clara County [John Mijares 805/549-3696]

On August 25, 1999, Board staff concurred with the Santa Clara Valley Water District's (SCVWD) recommendation to close the above-noted UGT site. Board staff agrees with SCVWD's staff conclusion that the site does not pose a significant threat to ground water quality due to low levels of petroleum hydrocarbon contamination.

The cause of soil and ground water contamination was unknown since the USTs appeared to be intact during removal. The responsible party removed four USTs and performed limited overexcavation in a portion of the UST pit. Depth to ground water is 34 feet below ground surface and flows in a southeasterly direction. MTBE was not detected in any soil or ground water samples. Benzene in ground water was measured at 1.4 µg/l in one boring and not detected at two other borings. The concentrations of other petroleum hydrocarbon contaminants in ground water were well below water quality objectives.

Underground Tank Cases Recommended for Closure

Shell Oil Company, 7020 Calle Real, Goleta [Richard Aleshire 805/542-4631]

Santa Barbara County Fire Department, Hazardous Materials Unit, requests concurrence with case closure at a Shell Oil Company service station site at the above-noted site location. Ground water test results on-site indicate a decreasing trend in concentration for petroleum contaminants. Benzene in ground water sampled in February 1998 was measured at 1.8 parts per billion (ppb), with a decreasing trend. The Basin Plan requires that

benzene in ground water not exceed 1.0 ppb. Similarly, MTBE was reported at 7.2 ppb and decreasing. The current limit for MTBE in ground water is 5 ppb. Unless the Regional Board objects, Board staff will authorize closure of this case. Staff notified the property owners of the recommendation to close the site.

Corrective Action Plans Approved (UGT Program)

Pajaro Chevron, 44 Salinas Road, Watsonville (Pajaro), Monterey County, [John Goni, 805/542-4628]

A corrective action plan recommending natural attenuation as the clean-up method for ground water was received and approved by the Board's Staff. Active remedial options (bioventing and biosparging, soil vapor extraction and air sparging, oxygen release compounds, and pump and treat) were considered and concluded to be not cost effective for this site.

STATUS REPORTS

Buena Vista Mines, Inc., San Luis Obispo County [David Schwartzbart 805/542-4643]

Buena Vista Mines Incorporated (BVMI) owns two inactive mercury mines in San Luis Obispo County (Buena Vista Mine and Klau Mine) which continue to impact and contaminate Las Tablas Creek and Lake Nacimiento. This status report is not a comprehensive account of all recent mine related activities but briefly summarizes the more pertinent issues.

A United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Action Memorandum was signed July 8, 1999 authorizing federal funding for an Emergency Response Time Critical Removal Action at the Buena Vista Mine (BVM) and the Klau Mine (KM). On July 12, 1999, a U.S. EPA Unilateral Administrative Order was issued to BVMI, Harold J. Biaggini and Edward C. Biaggini notifying that USEPA would proceed with actions outlined in the Action Memo and Order if the respondents were unwilling to perform those actions. On August 4, 1999, SECOR International, on behalf of BVMI, submitted a workplan of actions intended to comply with the U.S. EPA Action Memo and Order. Although

these actions were a small subset of those required by the Action Memo and Order, U.S. EPA conditionally approved them.

On September 15, 1999 Regional Board staff traveled out to the Buena Vista and Klau mines, and met with U.S. EPA staff. The inspection revealed the on-going construction of three sediment retention basins at the BVM. This represents the first time in recent history substantial onsite earthmoving has occurred. Presently, U.S. EPA personnel and their contractors are directly overseeing BVMI contractors to insure proper engineering practices, and quality control/quality assurance is being applied to site work. Future work this year includes: the installation of risers and spillways in the sedimentation basins, construction of a containment structure around the Acid Mine Drainage treatment plant, and minor repairs to the cap on the reactive tailings (retort) pile. In addition, the pond above the Klau mine is to be drained, and some erosion controls (hay bales and silt fences) will be installed throughout both mines.

At the Klau Mine, grading and compaction have been completed on the open pit. An on-site road has been improved in preparation for sediment retention basin installation. This basin is currently being constructed. Remedial work at both mines is scheduled to cease by November due to the upcoming wet weather season. The remaining remedial work outlined in the U.S. EPA action memo is scheduled to commence in early Spring 2000.

SECOR, on behalf of BVMI, submitted on September 3, 1999, a document entitled: "Final Compliance Plan for Buena Vista Mine". The Plan lacks detail, is conceptual in many respects, and is similar to what is being required by the U.S. EPA Action Memo. This report and two others recently submitted are currently under further review.

Staff will keep the Board apprised of site and case developments in future status reports.

Casmalia Resources Hazardous Waste Landfill Site (Casmalia Site), Santa Barbara County
[Staff]

The main items of interest regarding Casmalia project include:

- Consideration of the proposed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit at the November 19, 1999 Board meeting.
- Status of site ponds
- Progress on the construction of the Pesticides/Solvent Landfill Cap

Proposed NPDES Permit

Consideration of the proposed NPDES permit for the Casmalia site is scheduled for the November 19, 1999 Regional Board meeting. On September 9, 1999, Regional Board staff conducted its second community workshop. The first community workshop was held on August 4, 1999. The community workshop was designed to provide information to the public on the proposed NPDES permit. The community workshop was purposely held in the town of Casmalia as the town is nearest to the former Casmalia facility, and the closest community to the proposed discharge to Casmalia Creek.

The main concerns voiced during the second workshop were possible flooding from the discharge, public notification before discharge events, and when the site would be cleaned up. Regional Board staff addressed the first two comments, while a representative from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) addressed the latter comment. Based on information staff gathered from historic record research, field inspection, and discussions with various residents, consultants, and county flood control staff, staff determined that the discharge would not contribute to flooding in the community of Casmalia. To address the public notification issues, a recommendation would be included in the proposed NPDES permit for the on-site operators to post a notice in the general store two weeks prior to a discharge. To address the comment regarding the timing of cleanup, U.S. EPA indicated the process was ongoing and would require another five to ten years. After all site stabilization activities had been accomplished, U.S. EPA indicated the site would go into a long-term maintenance phase for the life of the site.

Status of Site Ponds

The Casmalia Steering Committee, the current site operator, has been using pond water for on-site uses. Water from all five of the ponds is being utilized for various activities such as irrigation to establish plants for erosion control, wetting of roads for dust control, and wetting of soil for construction of the Pesticides/Solvents Landfill cover. By using the pond water on-site, the Casmalia Steering Committee has accomplished a critical step in preparing the ponds for the next wet season. Lower water levels in the ponds allow more capacity to collect rainfall runoff during the coming winter. According to the Casmalia Steering Committee project coordinator, water levels in all five of the ponds are lower this year as compared to last year at the same time. A brief comparison of last year's water levels with the current water levels indicates four of the five ponds are lower, rather than all five ponds. Nevertheless, based on available information, it appears the ponds have adequate storage capacity for this coming winter.

Recently, the Casmalia Steering Committee completed and submitted a berm stability analysis for one of the storm water ponds. The study is currently undergoing review by the agencies, with review focussing on whether adequate assurances are included insuring safe pond berms.

Progress on the Construction of the Pesticides/Solvent Landfill Cap

Construction for the Pesticides/Solvent Landfill Cap has resumed since U.S. EPA's stop work order. Remaining construction issues related to what are known as design change requests have yet to be resolved between the U.S. EPA and the Casmalia Steering Committee. Some of the other remaining issues include reporting of construction data related to soil preparations for the cover, erosion controls being in place prior to next winter, and the overall construction schedule for the project. U.S. EPA and the other involved agencies continue to work together to address these outstanding issues.

The Inn at Pasatiempo, Santa Cruz County
[Howard Kolb 805/549-3332]

At the September 8, 1999 Board meeting, the Board instructed staff to draft a revised Cease and Desist Order for The Inn at Pasatiempo. The Cease and Desist Order will be presented for Board consideration at the November 19, 1999 meeting.

Staff Changes and Training

As reported in recent Board meetings, we continue to recruit, screen, and interview to fill our new positions. I anticipate introducing several new staff to the Board and the public at the November meeting.

Gerhardt Hubner attended the Biennial Groundwater Conference in San Diego.

All appropriate staff were trained on the updated version of our Discharger Tracking System, used to enforce compliance with report submittal dates. Katie Kropp, Karen Worcester, and Paul Jagger made presentations at the National Non Point Source Monitoring Conference that we hosted in Morro Bay. Attendance was about 220, with about 75% of the attendees from out of state (and about a dozen of our staff attending certain sessions). We received positive comments on the conference, thanks to the extensive preparation of the conference by Katie and Karen.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Underground Tanks Summary Report dated 9/20/99